

# ***KC DX NEWS***

**ABØX-EDITOR**

KCDXC Website: <http://www.kcdxclub.com/>

**NOVEMBER 2021**

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**NEXT KCDXC MEETING: NOV. 29** -The next KCDXC meeting will be a virtual meeting on the 29th, at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Like last time KØVXU will send out an invitational link to members. The famous Pie Eating Contest will be at the Zoom meeting hosted by KØXM.

**BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER DE KCDXC MEMBER, BILL, ACØA:**



ACØA's DX Machine is a Hex Beam at about 40' above ground. Check out Bill's DXCC totals to find out how well the Hex Beam works! This antenna is a true Over achiever!

See page 3 for an additional picture of ACØA's antenna and his antenna helper, KØAP!

## **TOWER & ANTENNA PICS**

We need pictures of towers and antennas from members for the upcoming newsletter. There are many members who have not sent in pics of their antennas! Send your pictures to [ab0x@kc.rr.com](mailto:ab0x@kc.rr.com) . It doesn't have to be 200' tall, just be beautiful in the eyes of the beholder.

## KCDXC DXCC HONOR ROLL

| Call   | Mixed | CW  | Phone | DIGI | IOTA | 160 | 6 M<br>DXCC | DX Challenge |
|--------|-------|-----|-------|------|------|-----|-------------|--------------|
| AB0X   | 357   | 353 | 349   | 232  |      | 225 | 37          | 2380         |
| W0GJ   | 354   | 344 | 354   | 292  |      | 236 | 20          | 2799         |
| N0RB   | 353   | 347 | 351   |      |      |     | 23          | 2269         |
| K0CA   | 350   | 349 | 350   | 331  | 318  | 112 |             | 2631         |
| N0CWR  | 350   | 349 | 350   | 326  | 975  | 202 | 66          | 2890         |
| NX0I   | 350   | 349 | 347   | 244  |      | 208 | 4           | 2502         |
| K3PA   | 350   | 348 | 345   | 319  |      | 188 | 36          | 2732         |
| K0HQW  | 349   | 333 | 347   |      |      | 33  |             | 1352         |
| KS0DX  | 347   | 318 | 348   | 129  | 360  |     |             | 2218         |
| K4SV   | 346   | 340 | 344   | 337  |      | 301 | 87          | 2852         |
| AC0A   | 348   | 318 | 348   |      | 838  |     | 15          | 2223         |
| K0VXU  | 348   | 335 | 331   | 265  | 439  | 143 | 2           | 2295         |
| K0GY   | 344   | 340 | 344   | 290  |      |     | 5           | 2295         |
| KB0X   | 336   |     |       |      |      |     |             |              |
| K0AP   | 334   | 331 | 325   | 295  |      | 47  | 8           | 2353         |
| W0QQ   | 334   | 240 | 332   | 254  | 151  | 111 | 25          | 1808         |
| K4SX   | 331   | 277 | 314   | 146  |      | 52  |             | 1617         |
| KE5BR  | 330   | 177 | 297   | 79   |      |     |             | 742          |
| WA0WOF | 330   |     |       |      |      |     |             |              |
| K0THN  | 329   | 314 | 284   |      | 179  | 1   |             |              |
| W0MB   | 325   | 229 | 324   | 251  |      |     |             | 1849         |
| RA3R   | 325   | 241 | 290   | 112  |      | 83  |             | 1412         |
| W0FS   | 322   | 270 | 295   | 230  | 657  | 181 |             | 1165         |
| K0XM   | 321   | 282 | 274   | 42   | 26   |     |             | 1770         |
| AA0MZ  | 312   | 290 | 292   | 220  | 532  | 44  | 20          | 1296         |
| AC0C   | 310   | 306 | 267   | 243  | 160  | 128 | 3           | 1852         |
| K0IZ   | 300   |     | 300   |      |      |     |             |              |
| NS0D   | 263   | 219 | 142   | 130  |      | 3   | 2           |              |
| W0XE   | 248   | 216 | 193   | 14   |      |     |             | 833          |
| AI60   | 249   | 217 | 193   | 205  |      | 19  | 10          | 936          |
| AD0K   | 226   | 214 | 80    | 85   | 183  | 22  | 3           | 888          |
| W0DR   | 225   | 30  | 174   | 70   |      | 5   | 7           | 622          |
| N0EG   | 205   | 165 | 141   | 193  |      | 1   | 10          | 573          |
| N9GB   | 203   |     |       |      |      |     |             |              |
| KS0AA  | 172   | 75  | 84    | 154  |      | 3   |             | 507          |
| W0ZAP  | 140   | 37  | 75    | 110  |      | 18  | 2           | 382          |
| WD0SRI | 63    | 17  | 56    |      |      | 1   | 1           |              |
|        |       |     |       |      |      |     |             |              |

Red indicates member is at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll in that respective class. Totals are with deletions.

NOTE: When changes of DXCC totals are sent in to me, they are immediately updated in the next month here in the newsletter.  
Send to [ab0x@kc.rr.com](mailto:ab0x@kc.rr.com) . All updates are shared with W0XE, for the KCDXC web page. Please only one update a month.



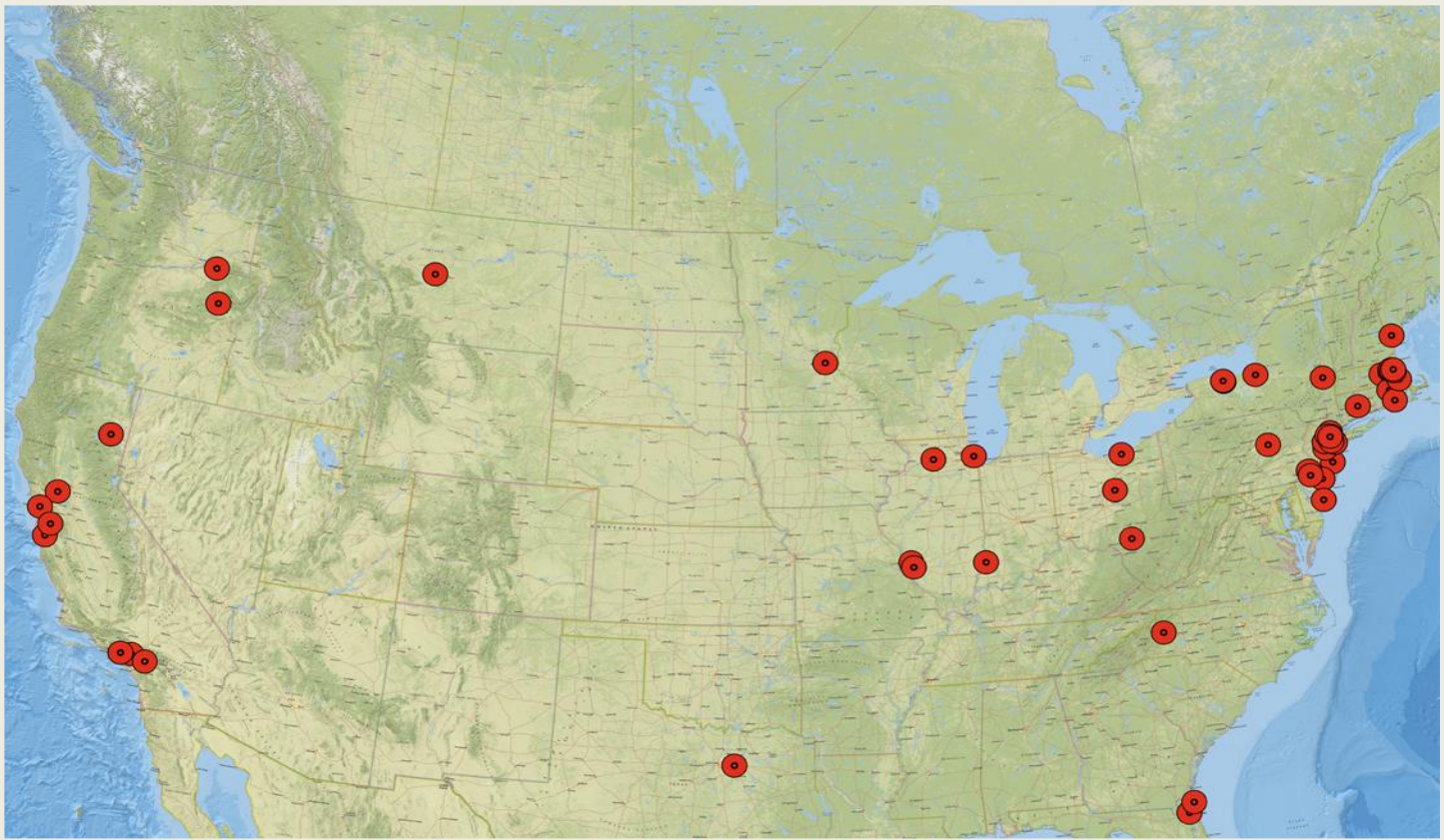
## KCDXC ELECTIONS COMING IN NOVEMBER!

All nominations for officers must be made by the end of the Nov. meeting of the KCDXC. The election occurs in December.

## KCDXC CHRISTMAS PARTY REJECTED BY MEMBERS!

During the last KCDXC Zoom meeting the members voted to NOT have a Christmas Dinner Party this year.





**Map depicting locations of amateur radio's 'Lost Tribe,' 1909. (Courtesy of the author)**

## **Amateur Radio's Lost Tribe: The 'Blue-Collar Scholars' Who Started it All**

**By Frank M. Howell PhD K4FMH**

Amateur radio is nothing if not tradition laden.

Tradition can be an effective part of a hobby or group because it maintains a sense of common history to socialize newcomers into the hobby as well as providing a central focus on long-term group activities. The history of a hobby is a key and enduring part of this set of cultural traditions. But if history as written and received is incomplete in important ways, this tradition misleads and misguides newcomers and veterans alike. Moreover, it may stifle future innovation due to the thought police" behavior that tradition-alists ritualistically perform. (73s anyone?)

In this article, I recover some strategic lost history of US amateur radio. My focus is on the "lost tribe" of the earliest amateur radio operators who were in existence before there was an American Radio Relay League; before there were government issued licenses; and before there were strict guidelines as to "what" ham radio was. Then, ham radio was whatever ham operators did. It gave the foundation for what was to come as the federal government created a legal basis for administering the radio waves as a public good. Yet, amateur radio operators in the US today hardly know anything about them because of the "Maxim Mythology" that exists and is perpetuated in our most common normal history of amateur radio in the US. This is why I characterize them as the important Lost Tribe. Let me tell you about them and how they got lost to our current history. Folklore about the Early Organization of Amateur Radio to illustrate, consider how the ARRL chooses to feature the history of amateur radio in the official timeline published during the 2014 Centennial celebration.(1) There is only a mention of the Junior Wireless Club being formed in 1909 (now Radio Club of America) followed by government licensing in 1912 and the formation by Maxim and Tuska of the League in 1914. The explicit narrative is ensconced in the Forward of the 50-year anniversary:

"In May, 1914, a small band of radio amateurs led by 8 The Spectrum Monitor *October 2021*

*Before there was the ARRL and QST magazine, there was Hugo Gernsback's Electrical Experimenter. It was the successor to his earlier publication, Modern Electrics, which began in 1908.*

(Courtesy: [WorldRadioHistory.com](http://WorldRadioHistory.com)) the late Hiram Percy Maxim, of [Maxim] Silencer fame, and Clarence Tuska, started a national organization and named it the American Radio Relay League. Since that time the story of amateur radio has been the history of the League, the chronicle of amateurs working together for the public welfare and for their common good." (Huntoon 1965).

On the ARRL website, there is erratic mention of Tuska being a co-founder with Maxim at times being labeled as founder. A search of this website for a central figure in this story, Hugo Gernsback, returns only a single article from a contributing ham about the former's book, 'The Wireless Telephone,' found at a flea market.(2) This is a narrative of a public relations rendition of the history of amateur radio, not one based upon the narrative obtained through the written materials and pictures of the early 1900s. There are perhaps some historical reasons for the League's omissions, involving competition and conflict by the ARRL with Gernsback. But some of that omission is now corrected in this article.

In my research, I used early amateur radio and related successive publications supplemented by US Census archives, genealogy records and the use of geographic information systems (GIS). As I describe below, the context of early amateur radio in the US involved commercial publications and non-profit groups all attempting to organize the earliest amateur radio enthusiasts. These

groups had various reasons, some for selling merchandise, others for public service. The first “tribe” consolidated into public form was a set of “blue-collar scholars” who were figuring out this new-fangled wireless radio transmission and reception thing. This was years before the ARRL was founded. They did have a tribal leader who encouraged them directly through his various media outlets and sales of radio apparatus and, indeed, much like the much later-day *Popular Electronics*’ monitoring calls, gave them call signs to use on the air. (3) That person was none other than Hugo Gernsback of New York City.

Gernsback also published their names, locations, call signs, and strength of signals from their transmitters so that they not only knew about each other, but non-amateurs did, too. There were others trying to organize radio telegraphy enthusiasts for various reasons, but it was Gernsback who first reached out nationwide to give an organized tribal dimension to US wireless operator enthusiasts. I’ll also use names such as Marconi, Fessenden, Clarence White, and deForest in this brief story but let’s set the stage first. Tribes and Early Amateur Radio in the U.S.

One definition of tribe is “a social group of simple kind, the members of which speak a common dialect, have a single government, and act together for such common purposes” (W.H.R. Rivers, 1914). This set of emergent amateur radio enthusiasts were certainly organized in a simple way, through a small set of focused national magazines and a few local groups. They spoke a common technical dialect, of figuring out how radio telegraphy worked and how they could practice the art and science of it. They had a government body, not of the federal government but mostly of a new magazine publisher who gave them a sense of common direction, identities through call signs, and a common outlet to share their knowledge through the dialect of radio telegraphy. They were indeed an emergent tribe but one later lost to popular history.

I’ve constructed a timeline of key events in the social history of amateur radio here in the US in Table 1, which shows the emergence of technical wizards of the day including Tuska, Gernsback, Marconi and de Forest. But it also illustrates how the executive visionaries Maxim, Gernsback, White and Fessenden also led the launch of four main groups to lend organization to these “hams.” Not surprisingly, competition for product markets and conflict subsequently ensued. Critical events are denoted with a gray background.

The key date regarding the Lost Tribe involves Gernsback publishing the first public national listing of operating hams in 1909, called the Blue Book. This publication appeared six years before the ARRL would publish a list of members in a 1915 issue of *QST*. A competitor to both, the National Amateur Wireless Association (NAWA), founded by Marconi and associates, including Fessenden, claimed 114 members but only identified their states (Watson 1908). NAWA was mainly focused on assisting the military, a prescient activity that foretold the League’s much later emphasis on public service communications.

October 2021 The Spectrum Monitor 9 The Junior Wireless Club of New York, while in a hotbed of radio innovation, remained locally oriented until years later. Rebranded as the Radio Club of America (Burghard), their history shows little competition with the ARRL. Many other local clubs, such as in San Francisco and the Bay Counties, also appeared. There were clearly numerous emergent organizations all vying to catalyze enthusiasts of wireless telegraphy as amateurs (DeSoto 1936). Yet it was Gernsback and his allies who provided the first successful “Pied Piper” effort to publicly meet the definition of a tribe. As we will see below, the Pied Piper metaphor fits very well. (4) As a key element of this revisionist history, it’s clear that it was Tuska who was the technical wunderkind, not Maxim. From his own words as published on the ARRL website (Tuska 1937: 4):

“The *Electrical Experimenter* indicated that there were other wireless experimenters in Hartford...Hartford...Hartford heard of the famous E.I. electrolytic? [Author note: E.I. was Gernsback’s company]...A gentleman, Hiram Percy Maxim, had become interested in the wireless...Mr. Maxim had no experience but he was interested and wanted a good receiver...Mr. Maxim was then in the novice class. He {sic} needed some instruction. Tuska worked with him and spent many an evening instructing Mr. Maxim and his son. Hiram Percy Maxim learned quickly and was soon the owner and operator of a full-fledged amateur wireless station. His son Hamilton Maxim was then about twelve years old. His younger mind outstripped his father’s in learning the code, and he was a joint operator of the station, which was known as SNY.”

Note that it was Gernsback’s electrolytic detector that constituted Maxim’s first receiver via Tuska. It was, in fact, Tuska’s technical understanding and craftsmanship that led Maxim and his son into amateur radio which Maxim subsequently mastered. Maxim became the Executive, collaborating with Tuska to visualize a Relay League of stations in 1914. He later worked with Charles Stewart to lobby Congress against the Navy’s insistence on keeping “amateur” transmitters off the air after WWI (Warner, 1936: 9). Maxim was married to the daughter of the former Governor of Maryland, an entree into political networks in the nation’s Capital. Undoubtedly, this gave Maxim some access to Herbert Hoover Jr., Secretary of Commerce, as noted in the ARRL memoir, ‘200 Meters and Down: The Story of Amateur Radio’ (1936), written by the ARRL Secretary, Clinton B. DeSoto. By then, “the” story of US amateur radio was that proffered by the League.

The ARRL asked in 1916 to advertise in Gernsback’s widely popular magazine, *The Electric Experimenter*, but was denied as a “competitor” at least three times. Maxim published the correspondence in a 1916 issue of *QST* “without comment” for the reader to assess (Maxim and Tuska 1916). A letter in that same *QST* issue complained about “all the leagues being formed,” which were “unnecessary.” (Stanley 1916). Conflict between the ARRL and Gernsback ruled the day.

By contrast, Marconi’s group, focused on assisting the military Signal Corps, appeared largely out of the fray. No doubt the growing Marconi business enterprise captured most of his attention. Later, his affiliated magazine, *The Wireless Age*, did accept advertising from the ARRL. But this conflict between the publications of the League and Hugo Gernsback, and the ensuing bad blood between the principals, may be one of the organizational memories Table 1: *Timeline of Key Events and the Historical Context of the Lost Tribe in U.S. Amateur Radio* Timeline of Key Events and the Historical Context of the Lost Tribe in U.S. Amateur Radio Year Event (emphasis for critical elements) 1907 Amateur operators form the Bay Counties Wireless Telegraph Association (California) Hugo Gernsback is said to have sold the first “practical home radio and first amateur radiokit” Clarence Tuska began experimenting with wireless telegraphy 1908 Gernsback publishes *Modern Electrics* magazine. Announces Wireless Registry (October) Rival magazine, *Electrician and Mechanic*, launched a Wireless Club, claiming 114 members (September) The Bay Counties Amateur Wireless Club in operation (California) 1909 First amateur radio organization the Junior Wireless Club, Ltd of New York City formed, later becoming Radio Club of America (January) Gernsback of *Modern Electrics* started the Wireless Association of America Gernsback published the *Wireless Blue Book of the Wireless Association of America*, the first nationwide public listing of amateur radio operators, constituting the *Lost Tribe*. Amateur operators form the San Francisco Radio Club, Inc. 1910 Clarence Tuska buys electrolytic detector from Gernsback’s E.I. Importing Company. Tuska consigned crystal radio to toy store bought by Maxim who cannot get it to work. Tuska



tutors Maxim on the building of a better radio receiver. They form father-foster son bond and engage Maxim's son Hamilton in the radio hobby. "Tuska worked with him and spent many an evening instructing Mr. Maxim and his son." (Tuska 1937) 1911 *Ship Act of 1911* requires licenses of maritime wireless operators 1912 *Radio Act of 1912*, all radio transmitters now were required to be licensed. Amateur radio restricted to 200 meters. Charles Stewart, later ARRL VP and primary lobbyist in DC, gave testimony. 1913 Clarence Tuska received government issued call sign 1WD Hiram Percy Maxim received government issued call sign 1WH Gernsback started another magazine, *The Electrical Experimenter* (May). 1914 Hartford Radio Club formed on January 14, 1914. First President was David Moore, Age 21. American Radio Relay League was founded by Hiram Percy Maxim and Clarence D. Tuska 1915 *QST* first published with list of American Radio Relay League List of Stations (December) Gernsback's *Modern Electrics* magazine ended Wireless Association of America and formed the Radio League of America with Tesla, Fessenden and de Forest as honorary members National Amateur Wireless Association founded, headed by Marconi with Clayton White, Editor of *The Wireless Age* magazine, as managing secretary. Announcement in all major New York City papers. Emphasis on assisting military Signal Corps. 1916 ARRL requests advertising in *The Electric Experimenter*. Gernsback declines.

Conflict between the ARRL, the Gernsback publication and Wireless Association of America ensues without immediate resolve. 1917 US ham operation ceased by government due to WW I 1919 Amateur radio returned in the US (November) Gernsback publishes first *Radio Amateur News* magazine 1923 Gernsback publishes first science-fiction articles in *Science and Invention* magazine. It begins his eventual transformation to SciFi publishing and a writer's award in his name 1929 Gernsback publishes *Radio Craft*, a magazine for the radio constructor. 10 *The Spectrum Monitor October 2021* leading to the omission of the many undeniable contributions made by Gernsback in their narrative of amateur radio in the US. The League subsequently won the war of who would eventually organize amateur radio in the United States. The National Amateur Wireless Association founded by Marconi (White 1915), announced prominently in most New York papers, largely disappeared from print within a decade. The transition by Gernsback from the WAA to the Radio League of America, clearly a competition of identity with the ARRL in the battles of 1915-16, also faded within a decade. This may have been due to Gernsback's drift into science fiction publishing which would eventually lead to an award in his name for that genre.

Clearly, Hiram Percy Maxim was not only a brilliant inventor of the gun silencer and automotive mufflers but an astute and effective executive in the art of building and managing a large organization. But it was Gernsback who gave technical education to the masses (including both Tuska and Maxim!) a venue with which to identify (Wireless Association of America), and a public identity as a tribe through individual name, location and station details in the Blue Books.

Who were these "blue-collar scholars" who made amateur radio possible by getting their gear built and regularly on the air waves? Where were they? What was their background? The Lost Tribe of Blue-Collar Scholars The members of the Tribe from the first Blue Book are listed in Table 2 (Gernsback 1909) at left. I've shown those not in the 1910 or subsequent Public Census records with a no information marker. A few were either a school or business. However, most (73 percent) were located to identify year of birth, race, sex, school attendance, and (household head or son's) occupation. All were white boys or men. The majority were young men with an average age of 19.6 years (standard deviation of 7.2 years). The preponderance of boys and young men is striking as shown in Table 3 (above) as a histogram of age in 1909. It was a "kid's game" of sorts, in large measure—very few adult men joined this tribe. That is ironic given the aging ham operator population in the U.S. today (Howell 2020). Note that a couple of extremes are in these data. A 9-year-old, George Schmidt of New York City, and a 10-year-old, William Wilson, also of New York, were operators. Wilson became an engineer by age 40. Two older married men also were part of the Tribe. Thomas Shannon, age 49, resided in Los Angeles, working as a truck driver. A plumber, Jack Steurer of New York City, was also 49. Both were clearly "old timers" in the Tribe. One oddity was Dr. Carroll H. Fink, a physician near Jacksonville, Florida. He was not found in the public Census or genealogy files yet was prominently noted in the Blue Book. Young Bowden Washington, age 17, was to become a radio telegrapher by 1920 as was J.B. Hyatt in Ohio. Others were employed in electrical work as electricians (e.g., Charles Spinney, Maine). Where the tribe member was a student and not employed, I've included the household head's occupation. With few exceptions (e.g., a couple of lawyers), all were employed in the retail, manufacturing trades, services, or farming: blue collar work. The professional influence by attorneys, the physician, the musician or art designer is exceptional. The dominance of blue-collar work by the household head on the radio amateur is unmistakable for those that were identified through public Census records. Hence, I've labeled the Tribe *Table 2: Members of the Lost Tribe of US Amateurs 1909 Table 3: Average age of amateurs in 1909* as blue-collar scholars who helped amateur radio become a social movement in the United States. The Gernsback-as-Pied Piper in the *Electrical Experimenter* served to play to the imaginations that changed the succeeding generations through radio science as hobby. To understand this, the reader only needs to recall what *Popular Electronics* did for so many boys, and a few adult men, when it offered "short wave listener" call signs, run at the time by Tom Kneitel through *Popular Electronics* and the US Postal Service (Herkimer)—far less than what Gernsback did a half century before.

The map at the head of this article contains the tribe on a map display, illustrating the specific geographic concentrations. The graph expresses these concentrations more succinctly as a count by state. They were located largely in the Northeast states of New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts and the West Coast of San Francisco's Bay Area and Los Angeles. The key clusters in the greater New York area and in the Bay Area correspond to a few of the key events in the timeline. The early clubs were being formed on the West Coast simultaneously to those in the localized hotbed of greater New York City as noted in the timeline. This pattern, along with those scattered throughout parts of the US, reflects the impact that the Wireless Association of America, through *The Electrical Experimenter* and *Modern Electrics* magazines, had during this formative period.

Some Revised History: The Pied Piper and the Chief Executive The official story of amateur radio offered by the ARRL through League Secretary DeSoto in '200 Meters and Down: The Story of Amateur Radio' does give some note to Gernsback's efforts. On page 24, he writes of him as a "promoter" of amateur as follows: "Another organization was also being formed in January, 1909 one of much greater pretensions. The Wireless Association of America was a child of Hugo Gernsback, publisher of *Modern Electrics*. After the first few months of its existence, Gernsback announced a membership totaling 3200. By November, 1910, he claimed that this number had jumped to 10,000. It was easy to recruit members for such an organization; there were no dues and no obligations. Youthful electrical experimenters signed up in swarms, attracted by the famous names in the honorary membership group and the ease becoming a member. The membership represented a fairly accurate index of national interest in radio, although not, of

course, of the number of active transmitters. Even so, the number of worthwhile amateur stations on the air had, according to conservative observers, increased from perhaps one hundred fifty in 1905 to five or six hundred.” (DeSoto 1936: 24). The ARRL’s 1936 official story of amateur radio did indeed acknowledge Gernsback as Pied Piper of youthful experimenters, albeit characterizing his count as “claims” while giving full credit to the League’s “conservative observations.” And, moreover, it gave the WAA its due as a “fairly accurate index” of interest around the country in amateur radio. But by its 50-year anniversary, the League Secretary Huntoon stated that “Since that time the story of amateur radio has been the history of the League.” (Huntoon 1965). Having won the competition amongst the various groups seeking to organize amateur radio, the official public relations story was changing. In the 2014 Centennial celebration of the League, the ARRL’s timeline had indeed forgotten its own published record of formative events (American Radio Relay League). In this official timeline, there is only a notation of the Wireless Club of New York followed by the formation of the ARRL by Maxim and Tuska in 1914. In Maxwell’s *QST* article on the 100th Anniversary of amateur radio itself, he notes the importance of recounting amateur radio history: “..as will be seen as we progress through the events of this past century, there is much to be learned from our history.” (Maxwell 2000). As he later writes in that article, however, there is only a mention of Hiram Percy Maxim, sans Clarence Tuska, in attributing organization to amateur radio in the US: “Some hams had extended their effective range by relaying messages through others, but it took a Hartford, Connecticut ham, Hiram Percy Maxim, 1WH (later 1AW) to recognize that messages could be sent more reliably over long distances if relay stations were organized.” The “Maxim Mythology” was by then complete.

From any careful and objective reading of the literature of that era, it is clear that Hugo Gernsback gave national identification to amateurs, publicizing a listing with call signs which gave them a public identity. His magazines and commercial company, Electro Importing, gave a venue through which members of the Lost Tribe (as well as those who did not join) could communicate with others using a common language of the day regarding amateur radio. These blue-collar scholars were the lifeblood of amateur radio’s rise in the United States. Even Maxim benefited from Gernsback’s electrical products through Tuska’s building of Maxim’s radio set and tutoring “novice” Maxim and his son, Hamilton, into the hobby.

What is also clear is that it was Hiram Percy Maxim who won the war over who was going to succeed in being the dominant organizational force in the ham world. Maxim and Tuska co-founded the ARRL but Tuska subsequently went into the military and then commercial radio to support his mother, grandmother and himself as “head of household” (Lee 2014). Maxim, the Executive, protected amateur radio from Navy objections with Secretary Hoover through Maxim’s political network, no doubt enhanced by his deceased father-in-law, the former Governor of Maryland, and Charles Stewart’s effective lobbying in Washington, DC. He later became Vice President of the ARRL (Lee 2014). My characterization of Gernsback as the Pied Piper who led young boys and men into the hobby reflects the historical facts from the existing literature of that era. Maxim was the Executive who learned the technical side from his 12 The Spectrum Monitor *October 2021* young associate Tuska, partnering with him and giving financial assistance to form the League. Maxim powerfully led the ARRL to be the dominant organization that it ultimately became over the years. That, too, fits the existing literature but it is at variance with the “Maxim Mythology” created and perpetuated over the decades by the public relations arm of the League. That is the mission of public relations professionals but not of historians. From the time of DeSoto to Huntoon to Maxwell in writing sequential official ARRL narratives of US amateur radio history for the League, the transference of the credit from a token mention of Gernsback’s 10,000 strong membership in WAA by DeSoo to Maxwell’s rendition of it taking Maxim to get amateur radio organized, with nary a mention of Tuska, the mythology was complete. Along the way, the Tribe and their leader got “lost” in the League narratives. Without the original amateur radio enthusiasts, there would have been no need for a national organization. It’s unfortunate that those who got us here are not honored in the official history narratives by the League or other associations. That is a public relations choice but not an accurate history. As Maxwell himself said in the *QST* article on the 100-year history: “there is much to be learned from our history.” I hope that this brief article does indeed reveal more about the blue-collar scholars that Hugo Gernsback led into the fold in the Lost Tribe.

## TABLE 1

### Timeline of Key Events and the Historical Contest of the Lost Tribe in U.S. Amateur Radio

Year Event (emphasis for critical elements)

1907 Amateur operators form the Bay Counties Wireless Telegraph Association (California)

Hugo Gernsback is said to have sold the first "practical home radio and first amateur radio kit". Clarence Tuska began experimenting with wireless telegraphy 1908 Gernsback publishes Modern Electrics magazine. Announces Wireless Registry (October) Rival magazine, *Electrician and Mechanic*, launched a Wireless Club, claiming 114 members (September). The Bay Counties Amateur Wireless Club in operation (California) 1909 First amateur radio organization the Junior Wireless Club, Ltd of New York City formed, later becoming Radio Club of America (January).

Gernsback of *Modern Electrics* started the Wireless Association of America.

Gernsback published the *Wireless Blue Book of the Wireless Association of America*, the first nationwide public listing of amateur radio operators, constituting the *Lost Tribe*. Amateur operators form the San Francisco Radio Club, Inc.

1910 Clarence Tuska buys electrolytic detector from Gernsback’s E.I. Importing Company. Tuska consigned crystal radio to toy store bought by Maxim who cannot get it to work. Tuska tutors Maxim on the building of a better radio receiver. They form father-foster son bond and engage Maxim’s son Hamilton in the radio hobby. "*Tuska worked with him and spent many an evening instructing Mr. Maxim and his son.*" (Tuska 1937)

1911 *Ship Act of 1911* requires licenses of maritime wireless operators.

1912 *Radio Act of 1912*, all radio transmitters now were required to be licensed. Amateur radio restricted to 200 meters. Charles Stewart, later ARRL VP and primary lobbyist in DC, gave testimony.

1913 Clarence Tuska received government issued call sign 1WD

Hiram Percy Maxim received government issued call sign 1WH

Gernsback started another magazine, The Electrical Experimenter (May).

1914 Hartford Radio Club formed on January 14, 1914. First President was David Moore, Age 21.

American Radio Relay League was founded by Hiram Percy Maxim and Clarence D. Tuska

1915 *QST* first published with list of American Radio Relay League List of Stations (December).

Gernsback’s *Modern Electrics* magazine ended Wireless Association of America and formed the Radio League of America with Tesla, Fessenden and de Forest as honorary members National Amateur Wireless Association founded, headed by Marconi with Clayton White, Editor of *The Wireless Age* magazine, as managing secretary. Announcement in all major

New York City papers. Emphasis on assisting military Signal Corps.

1916 ARRL requests advertising in *The Electric Experimenter*. Gernsback declines. Conflict between the ARRL, the Gernsback publication and Wireless Association of America ensues without immediate resolve.

1917 US ham operation ceased by government due to WW I.

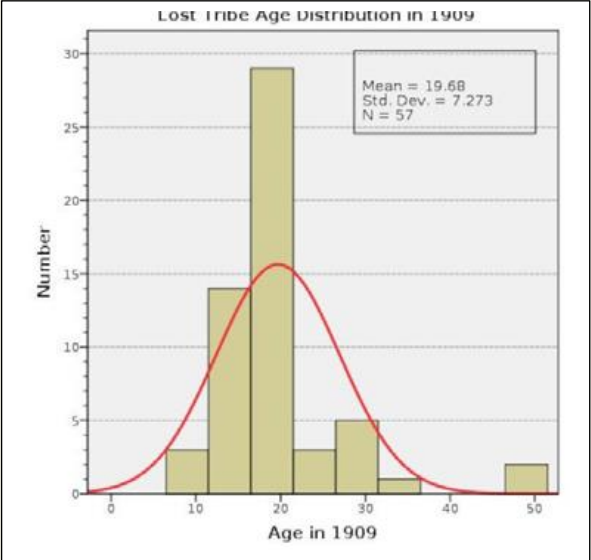
1919 Amateur radio returned in the US (November).

Gernsback publishes first *Radio Amateur News* magazine.  
1923 Gernsback publishes first science-fiction articles in *Science and Invention* magazine. It begins his eventual transformation to SciFi publishing and a writer's award in his name  
1929 Gernsback publishes *Radio Craft*, a magazine for the radio constructor.

TABLE 2

| AGE | NAME                       | CITY              | STATE | OCCUPATIONS (F)                                      | FATHER (S)                              | Sons |
|-----|----------------------------|-------------------|-------|--|---|------|
| 22  | Neat M. Tate               | Vacaville         | CA    | Farmer (F)   |   |      |
| 16  | Melvin M. Bonham           | Covina            | CA    | Cement work-sidewalks (F)                            |   |      |
| 12  | S. Conradi Vance           | L A               | CA    | Manager of Gas & Electric (F)                        | # Ozone Wireless Co. San Francisco CA # |      |
| 29  | Frank E. Daubenbiss        | Capitola          | CA    | Employed in Livery Stable (F); 1930: electrician (S) | # Geo. And Fred Taylor Susanville CA #  |      |
| 20  | Max Wells                  | Riverside         | CA    | Employed as electrician in power-house (F)           |   |      |
| 16  | Ray Newby                  | San Jose          | CA    | Employed as an apprentice electrical worker (S)      |   |      |
| 49  | Thos. I.P. Shannon *       | LA                | CA    | Employed as a driver for a packing company (S)       |   |      |
| #   | A.W. Pratt                 | Noroton           | CT    | Cromwell Gibbons Jr + Jacksonville FL                | Lawyer (F)                              |      |
| #   | Dr. Carroll H. Fink        | Fernandina        | FL    | Physician (S)  |   |      |
| 18  | Earl Vogel                 | Ashton            | IL    | Father owns farm (F)                                 | Son farms there (S)                     |      |
| 16  | Edwin R. Willard *         | Chicago           | IL    | Works on railroad (S)                                |   |      |
| 15  | Melvin Getchell            | W. Medford        | MA    | Carpenter (F)  |   |      |
| 15  | L.S. Stevens +             | Marlboro          | MA    | Employed as a box maker in a box factory (F)         |   |      |
| 19  | Newell A. Thompson         | Brookline         | MA    | Aunt (Head) is unemployed (F)                        |   |      |
| 16  | Philip Wood                | Arlington         | MA    | Employed in manufacturing (F)                        |   |      |
| 16  | Kendall Bushnell           | Arlington         | MA    | Employed as clergyman (F)                            |   |      |
| 17  | Ralph Damon                | Whitman           | MA    | Employed in dyeing and blocking in shoe factory (S)  |   |      |
| 11  | Allen Lee Whitman +        | Cambridge         | MA    | Lawyer (F)   |   |      |
| #   | John Joseph Roderick Veary | Boston            | MA    |  |   |      |
| 17  | Earle L.M. Coolidge        | Everett           | MA    | Employed as a musician in an orchestra (F)           |   |      |
| 28  | Chas. E. Spinney *         | Sanford           | ME    | Electrician at a mill (S)                            |   |      |
| 21  | Frederick Wommer           | Minneapolis       | MN    | Employed as a buyer at an automobile company (S)     |   |      |
| 20  | David Marcus               | St. Louis         | MO    | Confection Store Owner (S)                           |   |      |
| #   | J. Peters Jr.              | Florissant        | MO    |  |   |      |
| #   | Meade N. Powell            | St. Louis         | MO    |  |   |      |
| 27  | E.D. Porter *              | Lewistown         | MT    | Employed as an electrician (S)                       |   |      |
| #   | V. S. Ivey                 | Lenoir            | NC    | #  |   |      |
| 16  | Coke Flanagan              | Montclair         | NJ    | Lawyer (F)   |   |      |
| #   | L. Spangenberg             | Paterson          | NJ    | #  |   |      |
| 17  | Jas. McNair Jr.            | Lakewood          | NJ    | Electrician (S)                                      |   |      |
| 18  | Albert Higson +            | Jersey City       | NJ    | Employed as real estate salesman (F)                 |   |      |
| #   | F.R. Breck                 | Bayone            | NJ    | #  |   |      |
| #   | W.N. Broz                  | Cape May          | NJ    | #  |   |      |
| 16  | R.P. Wilson +              | Metuchen          | NJ    | Checker on railroad line                             |   |      |
| #   | H. Bassett                 | Shorthills        | NJ    | #  |   |      |
| #   | J.R. Carty                 | Shorthills        | NJ    | #  |   |      |
| #   | Frank McGram               | Jersey City       | NJ    | #  |   |      |
| #   | R.S. Burt North            | Paterson          | NJ    | #  |   |      |
| #   | B. Frank Rittenhouse       | N. Woodbury       | NJ    | #  |   |      |
| #   | W. Zimmerman               | Hasbrouck Heights | NJ    | #  |   |      |
| 16  | Fred Klingenschmidt +      | New York          | NY    | Restaurant Owner (F)                                 |   |      |
| 17  | Bowden Washington          | New York          | NY    | 1920: Radio Engineer-Telegraphy (S)                  |   |      |
| 15  | John D. Kattenhorn Jr.     | New York          | NY    | Not employed-Brother is bartender (F)                |   |      |
| 17  | Eric Leavens               | Brooklyn          | NY    | Inspector at Insurance Co (S)                        |   |      |
| 20  | Ralph Jeffers              | Rochester         | NY    | Electrician in a shop (S)                            |   |      |
| 24  | J.O. Smith                 | New York          | NY    | Owner, Art Design Business (S)                       |   |      |
| 21  | H.E. Sumner                | Brooklyn          | NY    | Clerk, Lumber Yard (S)                               |   |      |
| 14  | Maxwell P. Hellman         | New York          | NY    | Employed in Silk Factory                             |   |      |

TABLE 3



Average age of amateurs in 1909

Article forwarded by K4SX de Bob Heil. About the Author:  
Frank M. Howell K4FMH holds a PhD in sociology and statistics and is Professor Emeritus at Mississippi State University. He received his amateur radio license in 2010 while serving on the Chancellor's staff of the Board of Regents in Atlanta, GA. Frank is ARRL Assistant Director for the Delta Division and supports the Volunteer Monitor Program. He is a Presenter on the ICQ Podcast (icqpodcast.com). More about him can be found at k4fmh.com. This article continues his career-long research into social movements in the U.S.



## AB0I VISITS KC!



There was a meeting of the Old Fart's Club recently. We celebrated a visit from an old friend AB0I(now K7KF) by meeting for lunch. From L-R N0EKP,Tom, AB0I, John, K0VBU, Bill, K0LW, Lee. Photo by AB0X. N0EKP flew with John back in his Frontier Airlines days and has been acquainted with K0LW for quite a while. We toasted to old friend and SK, K0CS, and enjoyed a great time together.

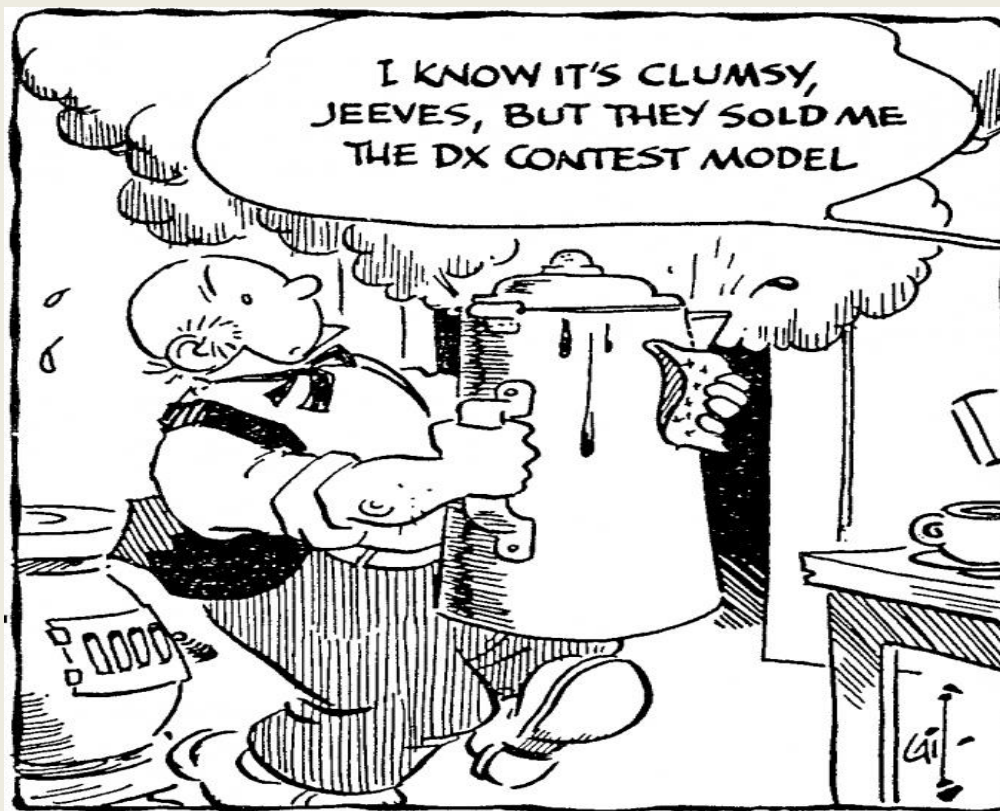
We discussed burning up the Alpha transformer, spilling a Dr. Pepper in the C-Line, other contest crew hams who are still active and many funny stories of events that occurred at the Radio Ranch back in our youth.

## DX NEWS & VIEWS

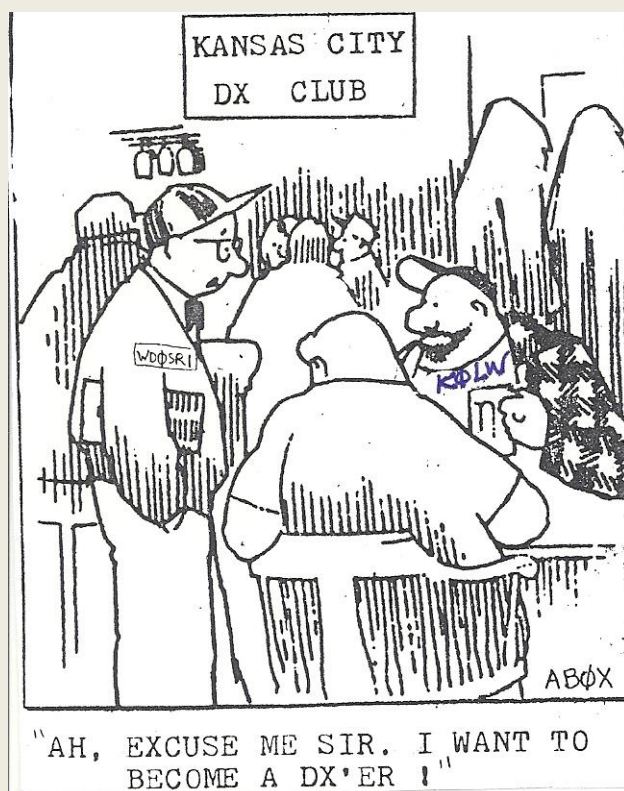
BY AB0X

### CQ WW CW DX CONTEST

The weekend following Thanksgiving is traditionally one of the best DX contests of the year. I always enjoy working new ones for the W0AR Contest in the CQ WW CW Test. The CQ SSB DX Test had some really good openings on 15 and 10 meters. Hopefully, it will be even better on CW. The CQ WW Tests require some hard work and DXing into the wee hours of the night. The following cartoon of Jeeves says it all:



THE KCDXC HAS HAD SOME NEW MEMBERS JOIN IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. DON'T BE AFRAID TO SPEAK UP AND ASKS QUESTIONS! This brings to mind an old cartoon I stole and modified many years ago from Gary Larson.



## ARRL DX BULLETIN

SPAIN, EA. Special event station AM500ESP will be QRV from November 20 to 27 to commemorate Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe.

Activity will be on the HF, and V/UHF bands using CW, SSB, SSTV and various digital modes. QSL via EA7URF.

MAYOTTE, FH. Don, K6ZO is QRV as FH/K6ZO until November 22.

Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL direct to home call.

ST. BARTHELEMY, FJ. Dario, KP4DO is QRV as FJ/KP4DO until November 24. Activity is mainly on 20 meters, but also on 40, 17, and 10 meters as propagation permits. QSL direct to home call.

ARUBA, P4. John, W2GD will be QRV as P40W from November 22 to 20.

Activity will be on 30, 17 and 12 meters as time permits. He will be active in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL direct to N2MM.

BONAIRE, PJ4. Operators K4BAI and KU8E will be QRV as PJ4/home calls from November 24 to December 1. Activity will be on the HF bands. They will be active as PJ4A in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL all calls to K4BAI.

MALI, TZ. Ulmar, DK1CE is QRV as TZ1CE from Bamako until December 8. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, possibly SSB, and FT8. QSL to home call.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Bud, AA3B, will be QRV as V26K from Antigua, IOTA NA-100, from November 21 to 29. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW. This includes being active in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry. QSL to home call.

BELIZE, V3. Damian, G4LHT is QRV as V31HT from San Pedro Ambergris Caye until November 29. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via G4LHT.

ANTARCTICA. Sebastian, SQ1SGB is QRV as VP8/SQ1SGB while working on the Halley VIa Base until the end of January 2022. Activity is in his spare time on 40 meters using SSB. QSL via EB7DX.

INDIA, VU. Special event station AU2JCB will be QRV from November 19 to December 14 to commemorate Jagadish Chandra Bose's birthday.

Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB, with FM on 10 meters and 6 meters. QSL direct to VU2DSI.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest, ARRL EME Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, YO International PSK31 Contest, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, LZ DX Contest, All Austrian 160-Meter CW Contest, REF 160-Meter Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, RSGB 1.8 MHz CW Contest, Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party, FISTS Sunday CW Sprint and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

DE ARRL DX BULLETIN

**KANSAS CITY DX CLUB**

**KEEPING THE KCDXC DAYTON TRADITION ALIVE!**





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The ARRL logo features a globe with a diamond shape in the center. Inside the diamond are the letters A, V, R, and L. The globe is surrounded by a blue and white border.

A logo for Associated Radio. It features a stylized radio antenna on the left, with a horizontal line extending to the right. The text 'AssociatedRadio' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'Associated' in black and 'Radio' in blue. Below the text, the phone number '800.497.1457' is written in red. A small antenna symbol is at the end of the horizontal line.